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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**  
 I hereby certify that on June 30, 2003, this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Michael Steele*  
 Michael Steele

**PATENT**  
**Applicant:** Richard Boyd  
**Serial No.:** 09/977,074 ✓  
**Filed:** October 12, 2001  
**Title:** Diagnostic Indicator of Thymic Function

**Examiner:** M. A. Belyavskiy  
**Group Art Unit:** 1644 ✓  
**Atty Docket No.:** 156857/0042

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
 AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**  
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Sir:

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

This Amendment and Response is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed 12/31/02. Applicant respectfully requests a five-month extension of time. Please charge the small entity fee of \$985 for the five-month extension to Deposit Account No. 09-0946. Applicant acknowledges the restriction requirement. Applicant respectfully responds below to the restriction requirement without traverse. To begin with, Applicant cancels claims 1 - 37. However, Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to prosecute claims 1 - 37 and similar or related claims in continuation and/or divisional applications. Applicant wishes to add new claims 38 - 81. In connection with the restriction requirement, Applicant has designated below in which group each claim appears to belong to.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1 - 37 and add claims 38 - 81 as follows:

- 38. A method for determining susceptibility of a patient's thymus to activation comprising:
- a) disrupting sex steroid mediated signaling to the patient's thymus; and
  - b) assessing the level of an indicator of thymic activation in the patient.

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